(b) the areas in which Government have entrusted the work to private companies and the facilities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir, No specific bids have been invited by the Central Government for participation of private companies in development of hydro electric projects. However, as a policy, greater participation by private companies in development of hydro electric projects is being encouraged.

(b) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that any generating company including private companies may establish, operate and maintain a generating station without obtaining a licence under the Act if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid. However, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority is required for Hydro Power Schemes estimated to involve capital expenditure exceeding such sum as may be fixed by the Central Government, from time to time, by notification. Transmission, distribution and trading of electricity are licensed activities, the licence for which is given by the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission. Any private company can also apply for licence for any of these activities to the appropriate Elecricity Regulatory Commission.

Electrification of villages in Bihar

2061. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast majority of rural population still has no access to electricity and is dependent on kerosene lamps and lanterns;

(b) if so, schemes, formulated for electrification of 25,000 remote villages/hamlets; and

(c) the details of 273 remote villages of Bihar identified for electrification under remote village electrification programme, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) As per the Office Memorandum dated 18th March, 2005, issued by Ministry of Power for Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, out of 13.8 crore rural house holds in the country, around 7.8 crore rural house holds (as per 2001 census) do not have access to electricity and may

thus have to depend upon alternatives such as kerosene lamps and lanterns, for illumination.

(b) and (c) A Programme for financial support of upto 90% of the costs of projects for electrification through non-conventional soruces of energy of remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages is being implemented by the Ministry. Before 2005-06, those unelectrified census villages where grid was unlikely to reach by the end of the 11th Plan were taken up. The number of such villages was tentatively arrived at 24418 on the basis of lists provided by the stales. This included a list of 273 villages in 23 districts of Bihar submitted by the state government. The district wise break up of these villages is given in Table—1.

After initiation

After initiation of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana by the Ministry of Power which aims at electrification of all the unelectrified villages in the country, only those remote villages/hamlets where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective will be covered under the programme of this Ministry. The task of identification of remote village has been entrusted to the Rural Electrification Corporation who have so far not identified any such village in Bihar.

Statement

District-wise list of villages initially identified by the State of Bihar for electrification through renewables

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of un-electrified villages identified by the State
1	2	3
1.	Patna	21
2.	Saran	7
3.	Vaishali	5
4.	Jahanabad	3
5.	Sitamarhi	4
6.	Khagria	4
7.	Purnea	3
8.	Katihar	6
9.	Bhagalpur	10
10.	Nawada	7
11.	Gaya	5
12.	Aurangabad	12

1	2	3
13.	Bhojpur	3
14.	Buxer	7
15.	Rohtas	10
16.	Lakhisarai	2
17.	Araria	2
18.	Siwan	15
19.	East Champaran	10
20.	West Champaran	41
21.	Banka	33
22.	Gopalganj	46
23.	Sheohar	17

Proposal for modernisation of Power Projects by Czech Republic

2062. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Czech Republic has recently offered its expertise in the expansion and modernization of power projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The last Session of the Indo-Czech Joint Committee was held in Prague in June, 2006.

Both sides reviewed activities in the power sector and appreciated the scope of possible cooperation in various power projects in India. In this context the Czech side confirmed the interest of Czech companies to participate in projects for construction, rehabilitation, and modernization of thermal and hydro power plants in India. Czech companies had also expressed interest in export of diesel generating sets, transformers, generators, and other equipment, for production and distribution of electric energy.